GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2287
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2005
EXTENSION OF CATERING FACILITIES
Tripathy Shri Braja Kishore

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to extend its catering facility in some more mail/express trains ;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the names of trains selected for provision of such facility ;

(c) the progress made so far in this regard and the time by which this facility is likely to be provided in selected trains ;

(d) whether the railway catering service is incurring losses during the last three years ;

(e)if so, the details thereof, year-wise ; and

(f) the steps taken to make railway catering service profitable ?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R.VELU)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) & (c) : All Mail Express trains needing catering services will be considered as per priority for provision of catering services either through Pantry Cars or Train Side Vending. In total 252 trains have been provided with Pantry Car services and further Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has been advised to provide Pantry Car/Train Side Vending in remaining trains in phases.

(d)&(e) : Yes, Sir. Year-wise details of losses incurred by Indian Railways on catering services based on costing methodology are as under :-

Year	Amount in Crores of Rs.
2000-01	366.89
2001-02	378.48
2002-03	410.81

(f) The Catering licences are being awarded through two packet open tender on competitive bidding basis.

A minimum of 12 % of sales turnover is being levied as licence fee and the sales are being assessed realistically. Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation has been set up to upgrade and manage catering services with professionalism. Refreshment rooms,Automatic Vending Machines, Food Plazas and Stalls have been established through reputed and experienced caterers